

Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

**Prepared by
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

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Chapter 1. Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

Worksheet

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U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

OFFICE:: Ely District Office, LL000

TRACKING NUMBER: DOI-BLM-NV-L030-2013-0034-DNA

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE: Annual Authorization of Inspection, Maintenance & Repair of Wildlife Water Developments in Wilderness

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Delamar Mountains, Meadow Valley Range, Mormon Mountains and Far South Egans Wilderness areas

A. Description of Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures

This annual DNA requirement will review the NDOW's annual activity plan for inspection, maintenance and repair of wildlife water developments within wilderness on the Ely District. The project area includes four wildernesses (Delamar Mountains, Meadow Valley Range, Mormon Mountains and Far South Egans), which encompass 31 wildlife water developments (guzzlers). The 2013 annual inspection plan includes inspection flights to 14 big game guzzlers in three wilderness areas (Delamar Mountains, Meadow Valley Rang, and Mormon Mountains Wildernesses).

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

LUP Name*	<u>Ely District Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan</u>	Date Approved:	<u>Insert Date Approved August 2008</u>
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**List applicable LUPs (for example, resource management plans; activity, project, management, or program plans; or applicable amendments thereto)*

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

SD-5: Manage 22 designated wilderness areas in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964; the Nevada Wilderness Protection Act of 1989; the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2004; the White Pine County Conservation, Recreation and Development Act of 2006.

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions):

C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.

*Chapter 1 Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
A. Description of Proposed Action and any
applicable mitigation measures*

Issuance of Authorizations to Nevada Department of Wildlife for Wildlife Water Development Inspection, Maintenance and Repairs within BLM Wilderness Areas in Nevada (DOI-BLM-NV-L030-2012-0003-EA, January 13, 2012). BLM — NDOW MOU (AMENDMENT TO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING Between: THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT and THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE Supplement No. 9 Wildlife Management in Nevada BLM Wilderness Areas BLM MOU 6300-NV930-0402)

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

The new proposed action is exactly the same as the proposed action under the existing NEPA document. It is being analyzed annually per the requirements in the BLM — NDOW MOU, which states:

“When [the annual Operations and Maintenance Schedule is] received by the appropriate BLM District Managers, the BLM will conduct a determination of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) adequacy (DNA) and then, by April 15th of each year, issue an authorization letter to NDOW citing BLM environmental assessment “DOI-BLM-NVL030-2012-0003-EA” and the DR dated January 13, 2012, as the mandate for authorizing the proposal. No further public notification with 30-day public comment period, minimum requirement decision analysis, environmental review, DR and FONSI will be necessary for each annual authorization.”

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource value?

The proposed action falls within the range of alternatives considered in the EA and no conditions within the project area have changed since the EA was completed.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessments, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?

Yes, the existing analysis is valid. No new information or circumstances would substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

Yes, the direct, indirect and cumulative effects are the same as in the existing document. The proposed action and analysis would be the same as in the existing document.

5. Are there public involvement and interagency reviews associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

Yes. The existing EA was developed with full public involvement. A Notice of Proposed Actions, Lands in Wilderness was released on October 20, 2011, when the project was first initiated. This notification was distributed to the Ely District and Southern Nevada District Wilderness mailing lists, and to interested parties. Comments for this public scoping period were accepted until November 25, 2011. Four comments were received. For the Ely District, the project was scoped internally in the Schell Field Office on October 3, 2011 and in the Caliente Field Office on October 25, 2011.

A 30-day public comment period on the draft EA was initiated on December 1, 2011 and published on the ePlanning Front Office website on the same day. All parties on the Ely District Wilderness and Southern Nevada District Wilderness mailing lists, and interested parties were notified of the comment period. Six public comments were received on the draft EA, all of which were in support of authorizing the use of a helicopter to access the wildlife water developments.

Upon completion of the EA, FONSI and DR, the BLM — NDOW MOU was updated with full review by both parties.

E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

Table 1.1. List of Preparers

Name	Role	Discipline
Emily Simpson	Wilderness Planner	Wilderness

Note

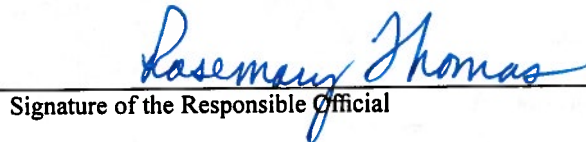
Refer to the EA/EIS for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the original environmental analysis or planning documents.

Table 1.2. Cooperating Agencies

Agency Type	State
Contact Name	Cody McKee
Contact Date	April 9, 2013
MOU Number	MOU 6300–NV930–0402: AMENDMENT TO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING Between: THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT and THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE Supplement No. 9 Wildlife Management in Nevada BLM Wilderness Areas BLM
MOU Signed Date	11–29–12

Conclusion

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirement of NEPA.


Signature of Project Lead
Signature of NEPA Coordinator
Signature of the Responsible Official10/28/2013
Date**Note:**

The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.